

RED ALERT

YOUR SUPPORT, OUR WORK, REAL DIFFERENCE

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redruk
people and skills for disaster relief



THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

March 2016 will mark five years since the Syrian conflict began. During this time, 250,000 people have lost their lives and more than 11 million have been forced from their homes.

Worldwide, displacement is at an all-time high. Currently, sixty million people are fleeing war, persecution or conflict.

RedR was created over 35 years ago in response to a refugee crisis. Today, we're still working to meet the needs of those who have been uprooted - and we do so regardless of nationality, race, gender, religious beliefs, class or political opinions, in accordance with the humanitarian principles that guide everything we do.

Through training and technical support, RedR is facilitating the provision of vital humanitarian assistance: to Syrian refugees in the Middle East, to those displaced by violence in Myanmar, and to those seeking refuge in Europe.

None of this would be possible without your continued support. Thank you.

Martin McCann
Chief Executive

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Red Alert is produced twice yearly to keep our supporters informed about RedR's activities and achievements, and to encourage others to support our work. All RedR publications, including Red Alert, are printed on recycled stock.

Tell us what you think! We're always keen to hear your thoughts about issues raised in Red Alert. Letters to the editor should be sent to: rachel.erskine@redr.org.uk

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MYANMAR: THE EMERGING HUMANITARIAN SECTOR

'The opening up of Myanmar has been accompanied by the emergence of a humanitarian and development sector to combat natural disasters and conflict situations in the country,' says RedR Programme Manager Katie Robertson. 'It's all very new - which means that training needs are extensive, and span a whole range of skill sets.'

'In the coming months, we plan to establish a pool of local trainers, help develop their skills through training, coaching and mentoring, and conduct context-specific open training sessions in Yangon and Rakhine State. This will build on the work we did in Rakhine in 2015, where we trained 90 aid workers in Project Cycle and People Management.

In January, Katie travelled to Myanmar to meet with NGOs and donor organisations and determine how RedR might address these needs.

We believe RedR can make a real contribution at this crucial time of transition for Myanmar. ■

REDR SECURES FUTURE FUNDING FOR SUDAN



Almost 20% of the Sudanese population - around 6.9 million people - are in extreme need of humanitarian assistance.

In December 2015, RedR was delighted to secure further funding from UNICEF, the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission, and the Vitrol Foundation for our work in Sudan. This support will enable us to continue the vital work we began in 2010, building the capacity of local people to respond to water, sanitation, and hygiene emergencies in parts of the country which are at the epicentre of the current humanitarian crisis. ■

BETTER DAYS

'These volunteers are the happy faces on the beach when people are landing. They are the first thing people see of Europe - nobody can beat that.'

Stijn Aelbers is Team Leader for the NGO *Internews* on Lesbos. 450,000 refugees landed on the island in 2015, having crossed the Aegean Sea from Turkey. Volunteers from all over the world have stepped in to help. They do everything from rescuing refugees at sea, welcoming them on the shore, providing them with dry clothes and blankets, serving hot meals, providing medical care and psychosocial support, and helping them with the registration process. Some of them are here for a couple of weeks, often using their annual leave; others are a more permanent presence. Very few have experience of humanitarian work.

'These volunteers are re-inventing humanitarian response,' enthuses Stijn. 'Rather than being frustrated, NGOs should try to help them: they have a lot to learn, and they need help to ensure they don't make mistakes.'

Building on a pilot course developed by RedR in late 2015, we began 2016 by running training sessions in London,

Calais, Belgrade, and on Lesbos. We were able to support more than 100 volunteers who are providing vital assistance to refugees living in camps and improvised settlements across Europe. Over two days, we trained them in the essentials of humanitarian principles and practice, helping them to work safely, respectfully, and effectively.

'The flexibility of the humanitarian system is being tested by this crisis,' agrees Siobhán McEvoy of the newly established NGO - *Better Days for Moria*. This umbrella organisation came into being when volunteers set up a camp to host refugees who couldn't be accommodated at Moria, the official registration site.

'Grassroots organisations and newly-formed NGOs are much freer than big, well-established NGOs. They learn quickly and are humble enough to learn, adapt and bridge gaps. We want to keep improving. When it's busy here, nothing we can do is ever enough. Training like RedR's can only help *Better Days*!' ■

'Tomorrow it might be me. We all need someone to give us courage.'

**Tomy Nicolade,
Cypriot Maritime Security Guard
and volunteer on Lesbos' beaches**

'These are the aid workers of the future, and it's important that we invest in them.'

Andy Boscoe,
Camp Manager for Oxfam in Za'atari



MIDDLE EAST: HELPING FUTURE LEADERS TO STEP UP

'2015 was a pivotal year for RedR in the Middle East,' says Country Director Martin Fisher. 'We established a permanent presence in Amman, recruited a local team, and expanded our regional pool of trainers. We ran 28 courses in Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, and Turkey, covering everything from *Proposal- and Report-Writing* to *Security Management* and *Water and Sanitation for Health for Urban Emergencies*. 50% of these courses were 'tailor-made', which means that we worked with our partner organisations to create a course that catered to the specific needs of their staff. It's a much more satisfying way of working for everyone involved.'

With the Syrian crisis about to enter its sixth year, there is an urgent need to build humanitarian capacity in the region. We expect to see demand for our training continue in the coming months.'

Training the aid workers of the future

2016 will also see the continuation of Context, an exciting professional development programme for local staff. Participants can choose between two paths: *Core Humanitarian Skills*, or *Management and Leadership*. Context

combines face-to-face workshops, buddy groups, individual learning and coaching, to enable trainees to work as they learn. 27 people successfully completed the pilot phase of the project, and the feedback so far has been extremely positive.

Andy Boscoe is Camp Manager for Oxfam in Za'atari, a camp that houses some 80,000 Syrian refugees. Several members of the team he manages are taking part in Context. 'We've noticed a real change in staff capacity from one workshop to the next,' he says. 'What's also interesting is how much it has boosted their confidence.'

Rozan Khalifeh is a project manager for an international NGO, an Associate Trainer with RedR, and a participant in the pilot phase of Context: *Management and Leadership*. 'When you're working in an emergency, you have to be prepared to take the lead sometimes,' says Rozan. 'I'm not a natural leader - but I'm now confident that I can step up when I need to.' ■

Context is part of the Start Network's Talent Development project, which is funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID).



'Schools are now obliged to implement security measures like armed guards, barbed wire, and raised walls. And while these precautions are well-intentioned, they inevitably take a psychological toll on the children.'

Mubashir Fida, RedR's Representative in Pakistan

All Pakistan photographs © Usman Ghani

MAKING SCHOOLS SAFER IN PAKISTAN

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Province, northwest Pakistan, both natural and man-made disasters are a constant threat.

The province is extremely vulnerable to earthquakes and flooding. Much of KPK was submerged during the floods of 2010. In October 2015, it was among the areas affected by the magnitude 7.5 earthquake that hit the Hindu Kush. Moreover, militant groups operating in the region oppose the education of girls and the employment of female teachers, meaning that schools are a target. On 16th December 2014, Pakistan experienced the deadliest

terrorist attack in its history when gunmen stormed the Army Public School (APS) in Peshawar District, claiming 150 lives, including those of 132 children.

Since 2014, RedR UK has been implementing the *Safer Schools* project in KPK, working with schools and communities across the province to ensure that children know how to react when disaster strikes.



Helping girls and women take the lead

Eleven-year-old Laiba Bibi lives with her parents, brother and sister in Upper Badwan, KPK. When the earthquake struck in October 2015, she was inside her house. Thanks to Laiba's quick thinking - and the training she'd received - her family escaped unharmed.

'I was sitting at home when the ground started shaking,' remembers Laiba. **'When it became really strong, we walked slowly outside, as I had been taught to do. When we turned around, we saw the house collapse behind us. I thank God that we left the house when we did, and that no-one was inside when it collapsed.'**

Laiba received lessons in earthquake preparedness from her school principal, Bibi Rizwana, who attended RedR's training in 2014 and 2015. 'The men in our village often go out to work during the day,' says Bibi Rizwana. 'This means that the responsibility for keeping our houses and community safe tends to fall on women: we're the ones who have to take the lead. I think every woman should have the opportunity to take this training. It would help us keep the community safe and secure.'

Education as a tool for peace

The most recent phase of the *Safer Schools* project included a focus on conflict-sensitive education, helping teachers to encourage discussion and foster understanding among students from different backgrounds.

'The atmosphere in KPK's schools is quite tense at the moment,' explains Mubashir Fida, RedR's Country Representative in Pakistan. 'The APS attack has had a huge impact - on staff and teachers, but particularly on children. Schools are now obliged to implement security measures like armed guards, barbed wire, and raised walls. And while these precautions are well-intentioned, they inevitably take a psychological toll on the children.'

Tariq Hayat is Project Manager at the Peace Education and Development (PEAD) project, which is implemented in ten public schools and ten Madrassas (religious schools) in Peshawar. He attended RedR's training in safety, security and conflict-sensitive education in October 2015, and since then has passed on his knowledge to 61 male teachers involved in the PEAD project, and to three female staff members, each of whom has gone on to train a further 50 female teachers.

On 21st December 2015, PEAD organised a sports gala, bringing together children from public schools and Madrassas for a day of cricket, football, and badminton matches.

'The objective was to provide some light relief, and to encourage children from different backgrounds to share ideas and learn from each other,' explains Mr Hayat. 'While the children were playing, teachers from both kinds of school were being trained to draw up safety and security plans, including mock drills, identifying safe evacuation routes, and so on.' ■

The Safer Schools project is supported by the Clothworkers' Foundation, the HCD Memorial Fund and several private donors.



Aspiring cricketer Shayan, 16, attends Government High School for Boys No. 3 in Peshawar.

'Playing with the Madrassa students is great - we teach them new techniques and we also learn from them. They are together all the time so they really know how to work as a team. When you play sports with people you don't know, it's difficult because you have no idea of their aptitude. But halfway through the match, we became friends.'

Sports make children happy. We forget about the sad situation that's prevailing. The protection structures are not a nice thing to see. But we're not afraid of anybody. And to show that, we will continue our education and keep coming to school. That is how we will fight the evil ideas that these terrorists have.'

Madrassa student Muhammad Aamir, 15, added, 'We felt happy to come here. Inside the Madrassa, we have physical activities but they are very limited. We learnt a lot from our new friends. We learnt about cricket, and some very good ideas about life.'

LADIES (& GENTS) IN RED

On 5 February we saw the return of our annual fundraiser, *Wear Red for RedR*, where offices from all over the world donned red and raised funds for disaster relief. We would like to thank everyone who took part because without your dedication, enthusiasm and commitment the day wouldn't have been the great success it was. A special thanks to our Wear Red ambassadors for rounding up the troops and for raising awareness of RedR in your workplace.

This year we introduced some new prizes, and we are pleased to announce our winners:

- Most red-iculous outfit:** Dog in red, Mott MacDonald
- Best fundraising idea:** Tony Gee & Partners' bacon butty and RedR sauce sale
- Most dedicated Wear Red ambassador:** Sorrella Smith, Laing O'Rourke
- Most active Tweeter:** Sally Walters, Pell Frischmann
- Best Wear Red Bake:** Alexander Associates

The overall winner this year were Arup, who raised over £12,000.

Arup were awarded the Wear Red trophy at our Patrons' Drinks Reception on 24 February by our President, HRH The Princess Royal.



Once again, thank you to everyone who wore red. With your support, we can continue to provide our vital training around the world.

Clockwise: Alexander Associates best bake, Arup Milan in 'rosso', Mott Macdonald's Milly in red coat, Tony Gee bacon butties and RedR sauce and Ramboll Southampton



WHY I SUPPORT REDR

BP Electrical Engineer, Sagnik Mukherjee, has been a RedR advocate since the inception of our partnership with BP back in 2013. Since then, he has climbed 130km in support of RedR's disaster relief work.

"I will never forget my first training run. Having battled the Shetland weather for 40 minutes I was ready to quit. Just then two friends donated my first £40 ever to my online giving page. The gratification felt cannot be explained and I knew I couldn't give up!

There has been no looking back since miles of running, 5895m on top of Kilimanjaro, 4610m on the way to Machu Picchu, raising £13,000 for RedR and building relationships with talented engineers across BP. But I can safely say that supporting RedR has been the most rewarding.

I would love to become a relief worker for RedR. Until that day comes, I will continue to support RedR's essential disaster relief work. I will encourage you to support them too!





TREKFEST

Get a team together - family, friends or colleagues - for this year's TrekFest and help raise funds to support RedR's disaster relief work. It's a tough challenge - there's no getting away from that - it will push you to your limits, but it's achievable.

Join today to complete the 25km, 50km, 70km or 100km in one of two stunning locations.

The Beacons: 4-5 June 2016

The Peaks: 3-4 September 2016



SWIM SERPENTINE

Announced for this year only, Swim Serpentine gives you the chance to swim the one mile course of the Serpentine in Hyde Park, which was the venue for London 2012's open water swimming competition. On Saturday 24 September more than 6,000 swimmers are expected to take part in this mass participation event and RedR have 9 places to give away. So, if you're one with the water get in touch today!



ROYAL PARKS HALF MARATHON

On Sunday 9 October, over 16,000 runners will flock to London to take on the 13.1-mile route passing some of the capital's iconic landmarks and Royal Parks. Join the RedR team for just £50, and raise £400 for our work.

To find out more about these events, contact us at fundraising@redr.org.uk

Q & A: ANNE BAJOREK

RedR UK's Fundraising and Communications Director



the Institute of Fundraising's Codes of Fundraising Practice, and we're registered with the Charity Commission.

What are the key challenges facing you and your team at the moment?

Our projects tend to be financed on a short-term basis (one to two years). Our challenge is to secure more unrestricted funding, allowing us to plan ahead with greater certainty. This is why our corporate partnerships are so valuable - and why we're so grateful for the loyalty of our individual donors. Charities have been the focus of a lot of negative press coverage in recent months. It's therefore vital for us to ensure that our supporters continue to feel valued and respected.

What are you most looking forward to in the coming year?

I'm so glad we're going to be able to continue building WASH capacity in Sudan. This is a prime example of RedR responding to a chronic crisis that tends to be overlooked. I'm also excited about the Serpentine Swim. I may have to get my wet suit out!

To view our fundraising promise visit: www.redr.org.uk/promise

How long have you worked at RedR?

I have been here for seven years - and in that time I've seen huge changes. We are always innovating and finding new ways of making our training accessible to those who need it most. I'm proud to be part of this process.

What inspires you at work?

We're still a relatively small organisation, but I continue to be amazed by our impact. Through the people we train, we touch tens of thousands of lives every year. And we have a truly global reach.

How are RedR's values reflected in your fundraising?

We make it a priority to respect our donors and their privacy. We are transparent about how donations are used. Everything we do is guided by industry standards: we comply with



Nepal is struggling to recover from the devastating earthquakes of spring 2015. RedR’s Programme Coordinator Erina Mugadu outlines the challenges the country is facing.

Up to a third of Nepal’s population was affected by last year’s earthquakes.

NGOs attempting to provide relief encountered a range of challenges: not least Nepal’s rugged geography which, along with adverse weather conditions, impeded access to remote areas.

Almost a year later, the country is caught up in a political crisis stemming from protests against the new constitution. Some of these have turned violent, prompting India to close its borders with Nepal. This has led to severe fuel shortages, which in turn have caused the price of basic commodities and food items to soar. There are significant logistical implications for NGOs trying to work in the country: power cuts are a common

occurrence, and it is even harder to get supplies to remote areas.

A nationwide post-disaster needs assessment led by the National Planning Commission recommended the creation of a National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) to coordinate reconstruction efforts and streamline the bureaucratic process. The NRA will devise quake-resistant building regulations and risk reduction strategies, as well as oversee the allocation and utilisation of funds. However, until it is up and running, the amount of reconstruction work that can be done is very limited.

Despite these challenges, RedR plans to remain in Nepal as long as there is a need for our training. To date, we have trained 466 aid workers and volunteers involved in the reconstruction process.

As emergency response gives way to recovery, there will be a closer focus on cross-cutting issues such as gender, age and disability inclusion, and child protection. RedR plans to deliver training which directly addresses these issues and ensures that the specific needs of vulnerable groups are taken into account; improving the inclusivity of humanitarian programming as the country builds back better, safeguarding against future disasters. ■